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Letter dated 28 May 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the African Group for May 2003, I have the honour, on behalf of the African Group, to welcome the recent decisions of the Security Council to send missions to the Great Lakes region and to the West Africa subregion with the overall objective of demonstrating the Security Council's sustained interest in the prevailing volatile situation in those two parts of the continent.

With respect to the West Africa subregion, the African Group was particularly encouraged to note that the Security Council mission would visit Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau.

The African Group was therefore dismayed by and concerned about the recent information that the Security Council had not only postponed the mission to West Africa but was even considering the possible exclusion of Guinea-Bissau from the list of countries to be visited.

While the African Group appreciates the circumstances surrounding the postponement of the mission to a later date, the possible exclusion of Guinea-Bissau from the list of countries to be visited has raised serious concerns within the Group, in view of the far-reaching implications for Guinea-Bissau's impending democratic transition.

Consequently, the African Group has specifically mandated me to bring this matter to your attention as an appeal to the collective wisdom of the Security Council for Guinea-Bissau to be retained on the list of countries to be visited by the full team of the Security Council mission to the West Africa subregion.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jagdish Dharamchand **Koonjul**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group
Month of May 2003

03-37638 (E) 290503